



**Lincoln Republican:** Tom Huening is skeptical of Eshoo's stance on economics, saying, "She's a born-again capitalist."

of her more conservative opponent. With the exception of their common position on abortion—both are pro-choice—differences between the candidates are stark: Huening favors reducing the defense budget by \$75 billion over five years, while Eshoo prefers an approach closer to that suggested by Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton, who has pledged to chop nearly twice that much in the same time period.

Like Clinton, Eshoo would use the money for "investments in economic expansion," including funding Clinton's centerpiece for economic growth, a national service program that would provide college loans which participants could pay back through either payroll deductions or two years of community service as police officers, aides in senior citizen centers or other nonmilitary service.

Huening says he "supports" the idea of increasing access to higher education but wants the program to be carried out by the private sector. He admits, however, that "I really haven't thought out how that would work."

On environmental issues, Eshoo roasts her colleague, a former real estate developer, for having supported a proposal to build a \$20 million restaurant and shopping

complex, including an 84-room hotel, along the San Mateo County coast at Pillar Point. The proposal won approval from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, with Eshoo the lone dissenting vote, but was later overturned by the California Coastal Commission, which said it violated the Coastal Protection Act.

**A** LIFELONG Republican, Huening knows he is swimming against the local tide this year. Only sheepishly does he admit to having voted for every GOP presidential nominee since Goldwater. "I'm really an independent," he says. "I don't know, was I old enough to have voted for JFK?" he asked an aide when questioned about his prior political affiliations. When told he wasn't, Huening stepped up to the plate. "I'm going to vote for Bush," he said, almost wincing, "not because I'm wild about him, but Clinton is talking programs, programs, programs, and I am committed to reducing the deficit."

Huening offers at least one novel program of his own, urging that all federal efforts—and particularly any new federal health care system—be subjected to regular reviews to see if they are accomplishing their goals. "We enact all these

programs, and no one ever goes back and says, 'Well, are they working? Are they doing what we intended?'"

As examples, he cites subsidies for tobacco farmers and mohair producers and the approximately \$100 million dollars provided annually to energy producers to pump helium back into the ground, part of the "helium reserve" program. "There are quite a few targets of opportunity we can go after to get this deficit down," Huening says.

Despite their recent statements, one area of general agreement between the two is in the field of health care. Neither candidate supports Clinton's far-reaching proposal, dubbed "pay or play," which would require employers to either provide coverage for their employees or pay into a fund which would provide universal coverage for the unemployed and uninsured.

Instead, both voice their support for similar versions of President Bush's recently unveiled concept of "managed competition," which would keep the insurance companies in the game but require them to insure all comers regardless of medical history or pre-existing conditions. Perhaps unwilling to offend Silicon Valley's business elite, both candidates reject the idea of enacting new taxes to pay for the program.

It is on the subject of taxation where their differences are most apparent. Huening, the darling of the GOP's high-rolling Lincoln Club, which has long invested heavily in GOP candidates who promise tax cuts for the wealthy, unsurprisingly supports a reduction in the rate of taxes paid by those who cash in their investments in stocks, bonds, real estate, Krugerrands and anything else (excluding speculative trading). "They'll invest that money in new businesses," Huening promises in classic trickle-down lingo. Eshoo, on the other hand, supports a reduction in the capital gains tax rate only for those individuals who actually use the money to make investments in start-ups and new businesses and retain that investment for a minimum of five years.

"Some of the business leaders in Santa Clara County don't know me very well yet," Eshoo says, explaining why a few local GOP supporters of Clinton, like outgoing Hewlett-Packard resident John Young, have endorsed Huening. Eshoo says she expects that situation will soon change. Huening disagrees. "She's a born-again capitalist," he says.